

House Resolution 1891

By: Representatives Henson of the 87th, Cooper of the 41st, Mosby of the 90th, Stephenson of the 92nd, Smyre of the 132nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia Department of Community Health to provide services consistent with a
2 goal to increase the length and quality of life for Georgians diagnosed with chronic Hepatitis
3 B and C and recognizing May 19, 2010, as Georgia Hepatitis Day; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, health organizations estimate that over 5.3 million Americans are infected with
5 either Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C; and

6 WHEREAS, it is estimated that 43,000 new Hepatitis B cases and 17,000 new Hepatitis C
7 cases are diagnosed each year in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, chronic viral hepatitis claims roughly 15,000 lives each year, and the overall
9 rate of Hepatitis C related deaths in the United States, which currently stands at roughly
10 12,000 a year, is expected to triple by 2019; and

11 WHEREAS, chronic Hepatitis B and C infections cost the United States \$16 billion each
12 year; and

13 WHEREAS, a person who becomes chronically infected with Hepatitis B or C virus may not
14 experience symptoms for up to 40 years after the initial infection occurs; and

15 WHEREAS, despite the fact that chronic viral hepatitis is the most common blood-borne
16 infection in the United States, there currently is no routine and universal screening in place
17 for early detection; and

18 WHEREAS, the goal of Georgia Hepatitis Day is to highlight the serious nature of chronic
19 viral hepatitis and to recognize the need for a comprehensive public education and awareness
20 campaign that is designed to help infected patients and their health care providers identify
21 and manage the secondary prevention of the disease.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body recognize May 19, 2010, as Georgia Hepatitis Day.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge the Georgia Department
25 of Community Health to provide services consistent with a goal to increase the length and
26 quality of life for Georgians diagnosed with chronic Hepatitis B and C.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Department of
29 Community Health.